Study for the characterization and evaluation of the needs of the migrant population with a vocation for permanence in Costa Rica

CONTEXT

In Costa Rica's current mixed migration scenario, two key aspects stand out: the processes of receiving and regularizing Nicaraguan nationals and a significant rise in asylum requests from this group since 2018. Meanwhile, migrants from various nationalities have been entering through the southern border since 2020. This highlights the pressing need for updated information on the profiles and specific needs of migrants in Costa Rica, essential for making informed decisions based on accurate data.

According to United Nations data, Costa Rica faces challenges managing a growing population of migrants seeking permanent residence. In 2022, the country has witnessed the highest number of asylum requests, potentially reaching 230,000. This figure encompasses requests from previous years, with 91% originating from individuals of Nicaraguan nationality. For instance, in 2022 alone, there were 62,162 asylum requests from Nicaragua. This constitutes 93% of the 67,175 requests recorded as of September. Notably, 10% of Costa Rica's population comprises migrants, one of the highest rates in Latin America.

Project Objetive

To characterize the migrant population seeking permanent residence in Costa Rica and assess their needs, socio-economic status, and employment conditions, we will collaborate with the International Organization for Migration and the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners.

To identify the target population, we will focus on migrants with a vocation for permanence, who are 'identified/located' in seven provinces of Costa Rica: San José, Alajuela, Cartago, Heredia, Guanacaste, Puntarenas, and Limón. These provinces represent areas where the migrant population is concentrated proportionally. Validation can be carried out using Facebook data, ensuring equivalent proportions and potential triangulations with active account locations. Data adjustments may also occur based on official information sources or alternative methods to enhance precision in collection.

Donor:
OIM Costa Rica

Current project:
Study for the characterization and evaluation of the needs of the migrant population with a vocation for permanence in Costa Rica

Budget:
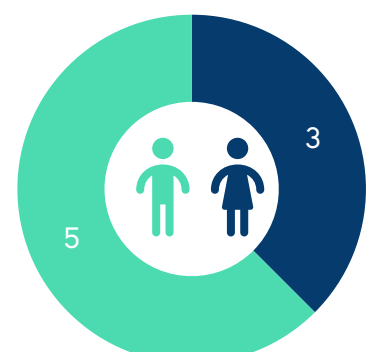USD $125,000

Project duration:
Oct 2023 - Feb 2024

PERSONAL
Total personal: 8

■ Base team ■ Field team

1
7

■ Female ■ Male

3
5

Services

- Generate information on the socio-economic and employment situation of the migrant population seeking permanent residence in Costa Rica, a priority for the study. This will be done in collaboration with the General Directorate of Migration and Foreigners and the International Organization for Migration, specifically within the framework of the Comprehensive Responses on Migration Program.
- Efficiently provide a service in a timely manner, always aligning with the project 's objectives and the established work plan.
- Nationally promote the initiative among the identified population and encourage participation. This involves coordinating with third parties for joint actions in promoting activities and calls, emphasizing collaboration and ensuring the sustainability of actions in the long term. Additionally, maintain follow-up meetings with IOM/DGME to communicate progress or delays in information gathering.

Expected results

- Conduct a study on the needs of the population seeking permanent residence due to unmet basic needs. This population is identified in the seven provinces of the country, especially in areas where migrants are concentrated proportionally, as previously identified by IOM in earlier information surveys.
- Create infographics and an executive summary that illustrate the main needs of the migrant population identified in the study.
- Provide structured and standardized databases containing information from quantitative household surveys, typically conducted with the head of the household. These surveys should cover socio-economic conditions and employment profiles, with a particular focus on the socio-economic integration sector, especially employability.
- Due to the nature of the migrant population with a vocation for permanence in Costa Rica, it is recommended to analyze the available data to subsequently identify the population distribution in the country and then determine the most suitable sampling technique. A stratified or proportional quota sampling could be recommended, but this may vary depending on the technical expertise. The goal is to make the information gathering as representative as possible to ensure the internal validity of the study and avoiding a sole focus on sectors traditionally associated with migration.

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